

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

IGA-02 MC-02 /092 W

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R 140600Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1510

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARMS POLICY

REF: SANA 2095

1. BELOW IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ IN RESPONSE TO MY LETTER OF MAY 25 UNDER WHOSE COVER I TRANSMITTED A MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE USG NEW ARMS POLICY (SEE REFTEL).

2. LETTER IS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE FOR FIRST TIME IN WRITING A YARG OFFICIAL EXPRESSES SATISFACTION ABOUT THE SUADI/USG MILITARY RE-MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF THE YEMENI ARMY, WHILE REITERATING YEMENI HOPE THAT THIS PROGRAM CAN BE INCREASED. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, LETTER ALSO UNDERSCORES REALIZATION THAT YEMEN HAS LIMITED RESOURCES WHICH IT DOES NOT WISH TO "DISSAPATE" ON THE ARMY AT THE EXPENSE OF YEMEN'S OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. "MY DEAR FREIND, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
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OF AMERICA: I THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1977 WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MEMORANDUM REALTING TO THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT CARTER VIS-A-VIS A LIMIT ON THE SALE OF ARMS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC EXPRESSES RECIPROCAL SATISFACTION ABOUT THE ATTENTION DEMONSTRATED BY THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC AND IN THIS CONTEXT WE AFFIRM THE NEED

TO EXPRESS, ALONG WITH THE OTHER ARAB STATES, OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES IN REALIZING TIMELY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST, A PROBLEM WHICH MUST INEVITABLY BE SOLVED IN A COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST MANNER IN THE LIGHT OF THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SHOWN ABOUT THE ARAB VIEWPOINT AND THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL STATE.

4. "CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF ARMS, YOU ARE AWARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING THE REGION ADJACENT TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, INCLUDING THE REGION OF EAST AFRICA, AS WELL AS THE INSUFFICIENCY OF ARMS OF THE YEMEN ARMY WITH RESPECT TO QUANTITIES AND QUALITIES IN COMPARISON WITH THOSE ARMS PRESENTLY POSSESSED BY THE ARMIES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. AS THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC HAS SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT ITS TERRITORY WHILE POSSESSING IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF ITS POPULATION AND ITS STRATEGIC POSITION, THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC EXPRESSES RECIPROCAL SATISFACTION OVER THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE BROTHERLY KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE FRIENDLY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TOWARDS IMPROVING THE ARMAMENTS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. AT THE SAME TIME THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC LOOKS TO AN INCREASE OF SOLICITUDE IN THIS FIELD IN THE FUTURE TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF REGIONAL SECURITY WHICH FORMS A PART OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE AND WHICH IS THE STARTING POINT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REASONING IN COMPOSING HIS NEW POLICY TO LIMIT THE SALE OF ARMS.  
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5. "BE SURE THAT THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC DOES NOT WANT TO DISSIPATE ITS RESOURCES AND ITS WEALTH IN ORDER TO EQUIP ITS ARMY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE GOALS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS PEOPLE EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT DETERMINED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROTECTING ITS SECURITY WHICH IS BASICALLY THE ONLY GUARANTEE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRESS FOR ITS PEOPLE.

6. "I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO PRESENT MY HIGHEST REGARDS.  
/S/ ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ, FOREIGN MINISTER."  
SCOTES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PARM, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (AL-ASNAJ, ABDULLAH)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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